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Appl. No. 09/892,747
Response to Office Action dated April 30, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A program supply method for transmitting a program from a server via a network to a user system to which one or more expansion units may be attached, the method comprising:

~~transmitting an operating environment of the user system from the user system via the network to the server before supplying the program;~~

providing, from the server to the user system, a program list which prioritizes programs that are likely to be operable in an operating environment of the user system;

after a program is selected from the program list, judging whether the program is operable or not in the operating environment, and transmitting a result of the judgment from the server via the network to the user system;

executing the program on the user system after the program is supplied from the server and installed on the user system to thereby confirm proper operation of each expansion unit by the program; and

after receiving confirmation at the server of proper operation of each expansion unit of the user system, requesting payment for the program.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The program supply method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising displaying the result of the judgment as to whether the program is operable or not in the operating environment of the user system.

Claims 3-5 (Canceled).

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Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The program supply method set forth in claim 1, further comprising storing the result of the judgment as data of the user system in the server when the program is judged to be inoperable.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The program supply method set forth in claim 1, further comprising expanding functions of the user system in which the [[a]] program supplied from the server via the network to the user system is installed.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A program supply method, comprising:
providing, from a server to a user system to which one or more expansion units may be attached, a program list which prioritizes programs that are likely to be operable in an operating environment of the user system;
receiving by the [[a]] server via a network from the user system an order for a program selected from the program list via a network from a user system to which one or more expansion units may be attached;
transmitting the [[a]] program in response to the order via the network to the user system;
executing, in the user system, the transmitted program to thereby confirm proper operation of each expansion unit by the program; and
requesting by the server payment for the program after receiving confirmation of proper operation of each expansion unit of the user system.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The program supply method set forth in claim 8, further comprising requesting the user system by the server to inform the server of an operating environment via the network.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The program supply method set forth in claim 8, further comprising storing by the server of an operating environment of the user system.

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Claim 12 (Currently Amended):   A program supply system which supplies programs from a server via a network to a user system to which one or more expansion units may be attached,

wherein:

said user system includes operating environment judging means for judging an operating environment of the user system, and before having a program supplied, transmits the judged operating environment via the network to the server,

said server includes list generating means for generating a program list which prioritizes programs that are likely to be operable in the operating environment of the user system, and transmitting the program list via the network to the user system,

said user system selects a program from the program list according to an input thereto,

said server includes operation judging means for judging whether the program is operable or not in the received operating environment, and transmits a result of the judgment as to whether the program is operable or not via the network to the user system,

said user system executes the program after the program is supplied from the server and installed on the user system to thereby confirm proper operation of each expansion unit by the program, and

if said server receives confirmation of proper operation of each expansion unit of the user system, said server requests payment therefor from said user system.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented):   The program supply system set forth in claim 12, wherein said user system includes:

operation input means to be operated by a user; and

display means for displaying data,

said user system is activated in response to operation on the operation input means, and the user system transmits the operating environment judged by the operation environment judging means via the network to the server, and displays the result of the judgment given by the operation judging means of the server on the display means.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

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Claim 15 (Original): The program supply system set forth in claim 12, wherein said server further includes storing means for storing data of the user system.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The program supply system set forth in claim 12, wherein said user system expands its functions when the [[a]] program supplied via the network from the server is installed.

Claim 17 (Original): The program supply system set forth in claim 12, wherein said user system is any of a personal computer, a portable terminal, and a complex digital image forming apparatus.

Claims 18 and 19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The program supply system set forth in claim 15, wherein said server stores the result of the judgment by the operation judging means when the program is judged to be inoperable.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A program supply system which supplies programs from a server via a network to a user system to which one or more expansion units may be attached,
    wherein:
    said user system includes:
    operating environment judging means for judging an operating environment of the user system; and
    user-side communication means for transmitting data to and receiving data from the server via the network,
    said server includes:
    server-side communication means for transmitting data to and receiving data from the user system via the network; and

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<u>list generating means for generating a program list which prioritizes programs that are</u>

<u>likely to be operable in the operating environment of the user system, and transmitting the</u>

<u>program list via the server-side communication means to the user system,</u>

operation judging means for judging whether a program <u>selected from the program list by</u>

<u>the user system</u> can be operated or not in the operating environment of the user system received

via the server-side communication means; and further wherein

said user system is operable to execute the program after the program is supplied from

the server and installed on the user system to thereby confirm proper operation of each expansion

unit by the program, and

upon said server receiving confirmation of the proper operation of each expansion unit of

the user system, said server requests said user system for payment for the program.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended):   A program supply system which transmits a

program in response to an order received via a network from a user system, to which one or more

expansion units may be attached, to the user system via the network, the system comprising:

<u>server-side list generating means for generating a program list which prioritizes programs</u>

<u>that are likely to be operable in an operating environment of the user system, and transmitting the</u>

<u>program list to the user system;</u>

server-side operation judging means for confirming an operation state <u>in the user system</u>

of each expansion unit by <u>a</u> [[the]] program <u>selected from the program list</u> ~~in the user system~~;

and

accounting means for asking a user to pay for the program after a first execution of the

program.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended):   A program receiving method, comprising:

<u>receiving, by a user system, a program list sent from a server which prioritizes programs</u>

<u>that are likely to be operable in an operating environment of the user system;</u>

transmitting by <u>the</u> [[a]] user system, to which one or more expansion units may be

attached, <u>via a network to the server</u> an order for a program <u>selected from the program list</u> ~~via a~~

~~network to a server~~;

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receiving the program <u>from the server via the network</u> in response to the order <s>from the server via the network</s>;

executing the program to thereby confirm proper operation of each expansion unit by the program; and

transmitting a notification of operation confirmation via the network to the server so as to allow the server to confirm the proper operation state of each expansion unit of the user system.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended):   A program receiving apparatus, to which one or more expansion units may be attached, for receiving a program from a server via a network, comprising:

<u>user-side receiving means for receiving from the server a program list which prioritizes programs that are likely to be operable in an operating environment of the program receiving apparatus and for receiving from the server a program selected from the program list;</u>

user-side operation judging means for executing the received program, thereby confirming proper operation of each expansion unit by the program; and

operation confirmation notification transmitting means for, upon the user-side operation judging means executing the received program, transmitting a notification of operation confirmation to the server so as to allow the server to confirm the proper operation state of each expansion unit.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended):   A program transmitting receiving system, comprising:

a program supply system comprising:

<u>server-side list generating means for providing to a user system to which one or more expansion units may be attached a program list which prioritizes programs that are likely to be operable in an operating environment of the user system;</u>

server-side operation judging means for confirming an operation state <u>in the user system</u> of <u>a</u> [[the]] program <u>selected from the program list</u> <s>in a user system to which one or more expansion units may be attached</s>; and

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accounting means for asking a user to pay for the program after confirming the operation of each expansion unit by the program;

a program receiving apparatus comprising:

user-side operation judging means for executing the program, thereby confirming proper operation of each expansion unit of the user system; and

operation confirmation notification transmitting means for, upon executing the program, transmitting a notification of operation confirmation to the server so as to allow the server to confirm the proper operation state of each expansion unit of the user system; and

wherein the program supply system and the program receiving apparatus are connected to each other via a network.

Claim 26 (Original): A computer-readable recording medium having a program for executing the program receiving method of claim 1 recorded thereon.

Claim 27 (Original): A computer-readable recording medium having a program for executing the program receiving method of claim 23 recorded thereon.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The program supply method of claim 1, further comprising:

sending a confirmation to the server if the proper operation is confirmed by the executing.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The program supply system of claim 12, wherein said user system is further operable to send a confirmation to the server if the proper operation is confirmed by the execution.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The program supply system of claim 21, wherein said user system is further operable to send a confirmation to the server if the proper operation is confirmed by the execution.

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Claim 31 (Currently Amended):   A method performed by a user system, to which one or more expansion units may be attached, to obtain a program from a server, comprising:

~~sending to the server operating environment data of the user system;~~

receiving from the server a <u>program</u> list <u>prioritizing</u> [[of]] programs that <u>are likely to be operable in an</u> ~~is generated based on the~~ operating environment <u>of the user system</u> [[data]];

sending to the server a request for one of the programs selected from the list;

receiving the selected program from the server;

installing the received program;

executing the installed program to confirm proper operation of each expansion unit by the program; and

sending to the server a notification regarding the confirmation of operation.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented):   The method of claim 31, further comprising:

receiving a request for payment for the program from the server after the sending of notification.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended):   A program supply method for supplying programs to an image formation apparatus to which one or more expansion units may be attached, the method comprising:

~~sending to the server operating environment data of the image formation apparatus, including which expansion units are attached thereto;~~

receiving from <u>a</u> [[the]] server a <u>program</u> list <u>which prioritizes</u> [[of]] programs that <u>are likely to be operable in an</u> ~~is generated based on the~~ operating environment <u>of the image formation apparatus</u> [[data]];

sending to the server a request for one of the programs selected from the list;

receiving the selected program from the server;

installing the received program;

executing the installed program to confirm proper operation of the each expansion unit by the program in an operating environment of the image formation apparatus;

sending to the server a notification regarding the confirmation of proper operation; and

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receiving a request for payment for the program from the server after the sending of notification.